

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A method for detecting *Salmonella* antigens in a sample, said method comprising the steps of:

combining said sample with a tracer and an anti-*Salmonella* antibody to form an assay mixture; said tracer comprising a fluorophore conjugated to an oligosaccharide from a *Salmonella* cell wall lipopolysaccharide, said tracer being able to bind to said anti-*Salmonella* antibody to produce a detectable change in fluorescence polarization; and

measuring the fluorescence polarization of said assay mixture to obtain a measured fluorescence polarization value, wherein said measured fluorescence polarization value is related to the concentration of *Salmonella* antigens in said sample.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said fluorophore is fluorescein isothiocyanate, isomer I.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said sample is a cultured sample.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said sample is from a food product.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said sample is from animal feces.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein combining said sample with a tracer and an anti-*Salmonella* antibody to form an assay mixture comprises:

combining said sample with said anti-*Salmonella* antibody to provide a blank mixture;
and
combining said blank mixture with said tracer to provide said assay mixture.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
measuring the fluorescence polarization of said blank mixture to provide a blank fluorescence polarization value.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
subtracting said blank polarization value from said measured fluorescence polarization value to provide a blank-corrected fluorescence polarization value, wherein said measured fluorescence polarization value is related to the concentration of *Salmonella* antigens in said sample.

Claims 9-13: Canceled

14. (currently amended) An assay kit for ~~testing for~~ detecting *Salmonella* antigens ~~contamination~~ in a sample, said assay kit comprising:

an anti-*Salmonella* antibody and a tracer, each in an amount suitable for at least one fluorescence polarization assay to test for *Salmonella* antigens ~~contamination~~ in said sample, packaging, and instructions for using said anti-*Salmonella* antibody and said tracer in accordance

with the method of claim 1 ~~said fluorescence polarization assay~~, said tracer comprising a fluorophore conjugated to an oligosaccharide from a *Salmonella* cell wall lipopolysaccharide, said tracer being able to bind to said anti-*Salmonella* antibody to produce a detectable change in fluorescence polarization.

15. (original) The assay kit of claim 14, wherein said fluorophore is fluorescein isothiocyanate, isomer I.

16. (original) The assay kit of claim 14, wherein said sample is a cultured sample.

17. (original) The assay kit of claim 14, wherein said sample is from a food product.

18. (original) The assay kit of claim 14, wherein said sample is from animal feces.

19. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein said sample is a bacterial colony.

20. (new) The assay kit of claim 14, wherein said sample is a bacterial colony.